Refinery at Numaligarh In Assam

*114. SHRI BHADRESWAR BURAGOHAIN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have accorded environmental clearance for setting up the proposed Oil Refinery at Numaligarh in Assam with certain conditions; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The project was accorded environmental clearance on 31st May, 1991 subject to the following stipulations:

1. The lay out of the refinery should be so planned within the proposed site so as to ensure that it is situated as far to the eastern side of the site as possible, to ensure that there is the maximum possible distance from the eastern boundary of the Kaziranga National Part. The lay out of the site of refinery may be finalised in consultation! with this Ministry.

2. The residential site as proposed should not be to the west of the refinery as it is only 19.5 Kms. from the' boundary of the Kaziranga National Park. It should be shifted further away, but keeping in view the distance from the Garampani Sanctuary which is only 24 Kms. south of the proposed refinery site. The newly proposed site of the residential colony should be settled td the satisfaction of this Ministry.

3. The National Highway-37 should be diverted away from the Kaziranga National Park and that portion of this road through and along the National Park (from Jakhlabandh to Bokakhat) *to* be denotified from all highway records and handed over to the National Park Authorities for regulating traffic. No movement of personnel, material or equipment for the project shall take place on the existing National Highway-37. The realignment of the National Highway-37 would be finalised in consultation with the Ministry of Environment and Forests, so that the wildlife habitat in the nearby Mikir hills and areas rich in biological diversity therein are protected. Work on the diversion of NH-37 will start before construction of the refinery begins and the Ministry of Petroleum should ensure that the road is completed before the commissioning of the project.

4. A No Development Zone must be notified before the project construction starts within a radius of 15 Kms. all around the refinery site, except towards the north west where the no development zone would extend into the Eastern boundary of the Kaziranga National Park.

5. No pipeline will be laid through the Kaziranga National Park and adjacent wildlife habitats in the Mikir hills. Pipeline alignment shall be finalised in consultation with the Ministry of Environment and Forests to minimise impact on environment and forests.

6. The project authority must strictly adhere to the stipulations made by the State Pollution Control Board and the State Government.

7. Any expansion of the Plant either with the existing product mix or new products, can be taken up only with the prior approval of this Ministry.

8. The gaseous emissions from various process units shonlcl conform to the standard prescribed by the concerned authorities, from time to time. At no time the emission level should go beyond the stipulated standards. In the event of failure of any pollution control sys tem adopted by the unit, the respective unit should be put out of operation immediately and should not be restarted until the control measures are rectified to achieve the desired efficiency.

9. A minimum of five air quality monitoring stations should be set up in the downwind direction as well as where maximum ground level concentration is anticipated. Further more stack emission,

should be monitored by setting up of automatic stack monitor.ig units. The data on stack emission should be sub. mitted to the State Pollution Control Board once in three months and to this Ministry once in six months, along with the statistical analysis. The air quality monitoring station:; should be selected on the basis of modelling exercise to represent the short-term ground level concentration.

10. There should be no change in the stack design without the approval of State Pollution Control Board. Alternate Pollution Control System and proper design (Steam injection System) in the stack should be provided to take care of excess emission due to failure in any system of the plant.

11. Only natural gas after desulphurisation has to be used as fuel with low NOx burners.

12. Fugitive emissions should be monitored continuously.

13. All gaseous emissions in the system shall be taken to the flare system and the flare should be smokeless and non luminous.

14. A sulphure recovery plant should be commissioned along with the refinery.

15. Zero discharge of effluents should be ensured and built into the system. In case the effluent has to be discharged due to process disturbances etc. the contributing unit shall be immediately stopped from operation and will not be re-started without bringing the system to normalcy. To meet the emergent-needs adequate number of effluent quality monitoring stations must be set up in consultation with the State Pollution Control Board.

16. Guard Ponds of sufficient holding capacity to take care of monsoon rains should be provided.

17. The solid waste from the effluent treatment plant and waxy sludge should be incinerated.

18. The solid waste (other than waxy sludge) dumping area should be made impervious so that the ground water is not affected dut to leaching and seepage of associated water containing consallutants. The solid waste disposal plan should be submitted to the Ministry once the process des'in and technological package is finalised;

19. The project authorities should recycle the waste to the maximum extent and the recycling plan should be submitted along with a comprehensive EIA.

20. A detailed risk, analysis based on Maximum Credible accident analysis should be submitted once the process design and the lay-out are frozen. Based on this a disaster management pain has to be prepared and after approval by the concerned nodal agency, should be submitted to this Ministry.

21. A comprehensive EIA report covering one year (4 seasons) data should be submitted once the process design and technology package and layout area frogen. The Ministry or any other competent authority may stipulate any farther conditions after reviewing the comprehensive impact assessment report.

22. A comprehensive study of the ecological status and likely impact of development should be initiated in consulta-tion with the Ministry of Environment and Forests. The proposal should be submitted to this Ministry within three months.

23. A green belt with a minimum width of 500 metres should be provided and the green belt development plan taking into account various aspects including attenuation of noise and air pollution should be submitted to this Ministry within six months.

24. The rehabilitation plan for the persons to be displaced from the project site including township should be prepared and submitted to the Ministry for approval within 8 months. Plan should *intrr alia* contain rehabitation site details, the facilities and compensation package to be provided.

25. The project authority must set up a laboratory facility for collection and analysis of samples under the supervi-

sion of competent technical personnel, who will directly report to the Chief Executive.

26. A separate environmental manage ment cell with suitable qualified people to carry out various functions should be set up under the control of a senior executive who will report directly to the head of the organisation.

27. The funds earmarked for the environmental protection measures should not be diverted for other purposes and year-wise expenditure should be reported to this Ministry.

28. The Ministry may revoke clearance M implementation of the conditions is not satisfactory.

29. These conditions will be enforced *inter alia* under the provisions of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act. 1991, an Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 along with their amendments.

Pollution of River Hooghly

*115. SHRI SOM PAL. Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether some studies have recently been conducted in the estuarine water of river Hooghly to ascertain the pollution levels; and

(b) if so, what are the findings thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The National Environmental Engineering Research Institute, Nagpur is conducting a study for the pollution level in the Kalyani to Birlapur stretch of the river Hooghly to update the available data in this regard. The report on the study is awaited.

Observance of Bharat Ekte Vank

*116. SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI. Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleaied to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision in respect of observing the year 1992 as the "Bharat Ekta Varsha"; and

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the schemes to be carried out as a part of this observance?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Depiction of Forest area by the Pap«r Industry

*117. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI; Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that huge forest area is being depleted by the paper indusry in the country; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) No, Sir.

The forest base paper milsl use mainly Eucalyptus and bamboo as their raw material. The entrie supply of eucalyptus wood comes from plantations. These eucalyptus plantations are easily regenerated by coppice growth after their harvest. Bamboo extraction however, is carried out mainly from natural forests and its extraction is strictly regulated by working plan prescriptions for that area. Bamboo working areas in the country are by and large covered by working plans.

(b) In order to relieve pressure on the country's forests for raw materials, the government are encouraging manufacture of paper from agricultural wastes. Presently, agricultural waste based mills are estimated to contribute about 30 percent Of the total paper production in the